

Amendments to the Specification:

Please [✓] amend the paragraph at p. 3, l. 28 – p. 4, l. 3 as indicated:

The fluid to be nebulized is stored in a container 12, such as a vial ~~[[14]]~~ 15, which preferably holds a number of doses of the fluid. The container 12 is removed and replaced as necessary. The user selects a dose size or amount and delivers the dose from the container 12 to a reservoir 14, which holds the fluid. The reservoir 14 may be removed and replaced together with or separate from the container 12 as explained below.

[✓] [Please amend the paragraph at p. 4, ll. 5 – 10 as indicated:]

B) The container 12 has a piston 16, which is moved by a dosing mechanism 18 to dispense a volume of the fluid. The dosing mechanism 18 may be any suitable dosing mechanism such as the dosing mechanisms for insulin pen mechanisms. The dosing mechanism 18 is operated with a dosing control 20 which the user operates to select and deliver a quantity of fluid to the reservoir 14. The housing 4 has a window ~~[[20]]~~ to view the amount of fluid in the container 12.

[✓] [Please amend the paragraph at p. 4, l. 27 – p. 5, l. 3 as indicated:]

The container 12 also locks together with the reservoir 14 to provide a secure engagement with the reservoir. When the container 12 is mounted to the reservoir 14, a needle 40 pierces the container 12. The container 12 also has three tabs or hooks 42 which lock together with mating connectors ~~[[44]]~~ on the reservoir 14. The tabs 42 are located about 120 degrees apart and each have a recess 44 and a shoulder 46 which engage complementary features on a connector 43 on the reservoir 14. The container 12 and reservoir 14 may, of course, mount to one another in any other suitable manner and the features may be altered for different fluids.

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Amdt. dated December 16, 2003

Reply to Office Action of September 17, 2003 (paper no. 8)

PATENT

✓
[Please amend the paragraph at p. 5, ll. 20 – 25 as indicated:]

B1
The fluid travels along a fluid path 52 between the container 12 and reservoir 14. The fluid path 52 includes the needle 40 and a channel [[54]] leading from the needle 40 to the reservoir 14. The fluid path 52 may, of course, be formed in any other manner including a simple lumen or tube extending between the container 12 and reservoir 14. Furthermore, the fluid coupling between the container 12 and reservoir 14 may be any other suitable coupling other than the needle 40.
